



Durham  
University

# History

**Postgraduate study opportunities 2012/13**

World-class taught and research degrees to PhD

**Ranked 1st**

for History by *The Independent  
Complete University Guide 2012.*



**60%**  
of our research was  
judged world-leading or  
internationally excellent  
by the 2008 Research  
Assessment Exercise.

# History

**Durham University is an internationally recognised centre for the study of History. The Department offers expertise across a wide range of fields, themes and chronological periods. It provides a supportive, friendly working environment with dedicated staff and a vibrant postgraduate community.**

## ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department is ranked highly in national assessments of teaching and research. The 2008 Research Assessment Exercise judged 60% of our research as internationally excellent or world-leading (3\* and 4\*). We are consistently ranked in the top three UK history departments by *The Complete University Guide*, indicating excellent levels of teaching provision and student satisfaction.

Durham is a thriving place to study History (as evidenced by the Department's consistently high ranking in research and student satisfaction surveys). We employ around 35 leading academics whose expertise stretches from early medieval to contemporary history, and crosses Africa, Britain and Europe, North America and China. We foster an active and lively research environment at both staff and postgraduate level, and for MA and PhD students alike.

The Department runs and participates in numerous seminar programmes and discussion groups which run throughout the academic year. These provide an excellent opportunity to share ideas within the Durham academic community with guest speakers from outside.

The taught Masters courses and research degree programmes provide

a balance between guided and self-directed study and research, tailored to the individual needs of students. Between the University Library and the Cathedral library, Durham holds a wealth of archival and manuscript material (from the medieval and seventeenth century holdings to the Sudan Archive and other modern collections, for example the Earl Grey Family Papers). The Department works closely with library staff to ensure its research needs are met; library staff also provide specialist training in archival research and in the full range of resources, including electronic, available at Durham.

## POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH DEGREES

A research degree gives students the opportunity to develop a topic in an original way and to make their mark on the discipline of history. It is examined by an extended piece of written work, the thesis, and is taught by means of close supervision by two members of staff. We can offer specialist supervision in most areas of medieval, early modern and modern history.

The following research degrees are offered:

- PhD
- MLitt
- MA by Thesis.

## MAIN AREAS OF RESEARCH

### Medieval History

The number and strengths of our medievalists enable us to supervise across an exceptionally wide spectrum of topics, covering the political, social, economic, religious, cultural and intellectual history of the British Isles and both western and eastern Europe between the late Roman period and the sixteenth century.

### Early Modern History

We offer expertise in British and European history from c1500 to the end of the eighteenth century. Our interests stretch from politics and religion to the histories of European monarchical courts and international diplomacy. There are specialists in gender, medical, and legal history as well as cultural, economic and social history.

### Modern British History

Our modern British historians adopt a variety of approaches to the field, from local and regional history, to national and international perspectives. Major research topics include intellectual history, the history of political thought, social and economic history, political history, and the cultural history of the post-Second World War period.



### Modern European History

Durham's modern European historians concentrate on the histories of France, Germany and Russia from the eighteenth century onwards. Their interests include the history of French social and political thought, the social and political history of Germany from the Weimar period to the present, Soviet history, the history of film and propaganda, sports, and environmental history.

### United States

US history has long been strong at Durham, with specialists using archival sources in the United States as well as the University's considerable holdings of printed sources. Their interests range from the business history of the late-nineteenth and twentieth centuries to the role of US foreign policy in the Cold War period. They also have expertise in Native American history and the New Deal period.

### African History

The Department's specialists work on the colonial and post-colonial periods. With the unique resource of the Library's Sudan Archive close to hand, the Department is the natural home for historical study of Sudan in particular;

but staff have research expertise covering many aspects of the whole of eastern and north-eastern Africa.

### China

Our Chinese history specialists focus on the Qing dynasty and modern China, and have research interests in borders, frontiers and the comparative history of empires and in twentieth century social, gender and cultural history. Durham has a substantial and wide ranging collection of Chinese primary material dating from the eighteenth century as well as good holdings of secondary works.

### Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies

The Department is a constituent member of the IMRS, an interdisciplinary network of scholars working in a wide variety of fields, established to connect the interests of one of England's most diverse and dynamic centres of medieval and renaissance studies. It supports a number of research projects (Nature and Science, Narratives and Networks, East and West and the Durham World Heritage Site), runs a fortnightly seminar programme (including international speakers) as well as conferences, workshops, a lively Postgraduate Discussion Group and an annual

Postgraduate Conference. The IMRS oversees the MA in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, to which department staff contribute. In addition, there is the annual Latin Palaeography Summer School, taught by international invited lecturers, and a flourishing publications programme.

### Centre for Seventeenth Century Studies

The Department also contributes to the CSCS, an internationally renowned centre for interdisciplinary study and draws on the wide expertise of scholars from several Arts and Humanities departments. In addition to its MA in Seventeenth Century Studies, the Centre hosts an annual international conference and is allied with the leading journal of the period, *The Seventeenth Century*.

### RECENT THESIS TITLES

- "Protection, Feud, and Royal Power: Violence and its Regulation in English Law c850–c1250"
- "The Development of Modern Propaganda in Britain, 1854–1902"
- "Functional Goods & Fancies: The Production and Consumption of Consumer Goods in Northumberland, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Durham c1680–1780".

### THESES IN PROGRESS

- "Cattle and the State: a Historical Anthropology of Marriage in Bahr el-Ghazal, South Sudan, 1930–2011"
- "Representations of Eve in the Twelfth Century"
- "Early Modern British Urban Public Hygiene Regulation".

### POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH FACILITIES

There is a Postgraduate Centre in the Department with networked computers and printers, and students also have access to a photocopier, a scanner and laptops for archival work. Durham is exceptionally well provided with libraries and archives. The University Library includes the Main Library and the Palace Green Library and together they provide access to a huge collection of materials, including books, journals, official publications and electronic resources. Durham is also home to an unusually extensive and diverse range of archives and special collections.

In addition, the Department can also provide some financial support for research in archives and libraries. There are Postgraduate Discussion Groups in Medieval, Early Modern and Modern History. Many postgraduates attend conferences in Britain or elsewhere

around the world. There is also an opportunity to gain teaching experience at undergraduate level.

### TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH DEGREES

Normally a good 2:1 in an undergraduate History degree, and work at or near distinction level in MA programmes.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- IELTS of 7.0 (with no element below 6.5) or equivalent.

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office on [international.office@durham.ac.uk](mailto:international.office@durham.ac.uk) or visit our website at

[www.durham.ac.uk/international](http://www.durham.ac.uk/international)

### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

- AHRC
- ESRC Doctoral Training Centre Awards
- Durham Doctoral Studentships
- Durham MA Studentships
- Departmental Doctoral Fee Waivers.

For more information contact our website at [www.durham.ac.uk/history/postgraduate/funding](http://www.durham.ac.uk/history/postgraduate/funding)

The University also has a range of funding opportunities for postgraduate students. To find out what support you could be eligible to receive see our online funding database at [www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search](http://www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search)

### TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

- MA in Medieval History
- MA in Early Modern History
- MA in Modern History
- MA in Seventeenth Century Studies
- MA in Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

The Department offers a suite of one year taught degrees that are suitable both for students wishing to pursue a year of advanced study in History and for those looking for research training in order to undertake doctoral study.

The MA introduces students to the knowledge, debates and skills necessary to pursuing advanced historical work in a specialised area of study. Each programme consists of a core module focusing on research methods, a further



module examining conceptual and historiographical issues, an additional optional module from a total of about 15. These provide an opportunity for students to focus in depth on key research areas led by leading experts in the field. They are also designed to prepare students for a substantial 15,000 or 20,000 word dissertation. In addition students may take skills and language modules, such as Palaeography, Latin, and French and German for academic purposes.

**MA in Social and Economic History (Research Methods)**

This programme is intended for students specialising in social and/or economic history. We have expertise in many aspects of late medieval, early modern and modern British and European social and economic history, as well as parts of the Americas and Africa. This course is intended to provide you with the necessary research training skills to support PhD study in social and economic history, and there is a particular emphasis on training in quantitative methods.

The Department is part of the ESRC Doctoral Training Centre with 'Quota Studentships' for students taking the MA in Social and Economic History as a preparation for a clearly defined PhD

project. The scheme provides one year funding for this Masters followed by three years funding for PhD.

For more details please consult the Doctoral Training Centre website: [www.durham.ac.uk/socialsciences.health/postgraduate/funding/esrc](http://www.durham.ac.uk/socialsciences.health/postgraduate/funding/esrc)

**TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR TAUGHT PROGRAMMES**

2:1 or equivalent in relevant first degree.

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS**

- IELTS of 7.0 (with no element under 6.5) or equivalent.

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office on [international.office@durham.ac.uk](mailto:international.office@durham.ac.uk) or visit our website at [www.durham.ac.uk/international](http://www.durham.ac.uk/international)

**FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

- AHRC
- ESRC Doctoral Training Centre Awards (MA Social and Economic History)
- Durham MA Studentships.

For more information see our website at [www.durham.ac.uk/history/postgraduate/funding](http://www.durham.ac.uk/history/postgraduate/funding)

The University also has a range of funding opportunities for postgraduate students. To find out what support you could be eligible to receive see our online funding database at [www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search](http://www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search)

**CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY**

For further information on career options and employability, including the results of the Destination of Leavers survey, student and employer testimonials and details of work experience and study abroad opportunities, please visit [www.durham.ac.uk/history/postgraduate/employability](http://www.durham.ac.uk/history/postgraduate/employability)

**KEY INFORMATION**

There are currently 45 research students, and 52 taught MA students. Our undergraduate community numbers just over 420 students. We have 35 full-time lecturers, plus four Research Staff and Teaching Fellows.

Name: **Gemma Wain**  
 Home Country: **UK**  
 Postgraduate Course: **PhD History**

I came to Durham to study for an MA in Medieval and Renaissance Studies, and am presently in the final year of an AHRC-funded doctorate, exploring representations of Eve in twelfth century writings on Genesis.

What first attracted me to Durham was the opportunity to study at a world-class institution set in a beautiful medieval city. What has made my time here so exciting and rewarding has been the opportunity to work with leading scholars in my field, and within the supportive and stimulating postgraduate community of the History Department and the Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies. These two elements have made Durham the ideal place for me to pursue my research interests, and to lay foundations for my academic career.

My Durham MA was an ideal springboard into doctoral research, developing the skills and understanding necessary for serious interdisciplinary study of the twelfth century. Alongside the individually tailored attention of staff, Durham's History Department has provided me with funding opportunities and access to the sources and specialist linguistic and technical training necessary for my research. Most notably, this has been in the form of the Cathedral libraries and manuscript holdings, and the excellent annual Latin Palaeography Summer School. I have also enjoyed the opportunity to assist in organising academic conferences which have brought international academics to Durham, and to attend significant international conferences, at which I have both given papers and organised panels under the aegis of the department. One of the things I have most enjoyed has been the opportunity to teach the undergraduates in the Department, which has been both challenging and rewarding, as well as providing invaluable experience for the future. The chance to discuss and communicate my research interests in this way has been both illuminating and productive, and as thought-provoking for me as I hope it has been for those who I have been privileged to teach.



## Contact details

For further information on taught programmes or research degrees contact:

**Anne Park**

**Postgraduate Secretary**

Tel: +44 (0)191 334 1057

Email: [postgraduate.history@durham.ac.uk](mailto:postgraduate.history@durham.ac.uk)

Department of History  
Durham University  
43 North Bailey  
Durham DH1 3EX  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0)191 334 1040

Fax: +44 (0)191 334 1041

[www.durham.ac.uk/history](http://www.durham.ac.uk/history)

Durham University and Durham University Logo are registered trademarks of the University of Durham trading as Durham University. All rights reserved. © Every effort is made to ensure that all information is accurate at the time of going to press. However, changes may occur and Durham University reserves the right to amend or change any information contained in this brochure at any time.

Designed by: **crombie.**  
[www.crombiecreative.com](http://www.crombiecreative.com)

